

The three Washington D.C. airports should be reopened and access authorized for pilots who have passed security checks. They should be issued a Personal ID # for identification and a "duress" word that can be used in normal conversation to indicate problems with the flight to ATC. Anyone going to Washington or who is a pilot should be able to submit to proper background checks in advance of a trip and receive proper clearance to land in the Washington, D.C. area airports. A better solution is to let pilots volunteer for a special clearance that would be good system wide to use all airspace except prohibited and restricted airspace. I can see the need to know specifically who you are allowing into the area. However, this paranoia is driving us all nuts! I was in the military at 19 yoa guarding nuclear weapons! I had a top secret crypto clearance and sometimes ran a command post. I have been a Police Officer almost all my adult life and was a Captain when I retired in May 2001. I developed SWAT units and other special services for the department. Now it seems I can't even go to D.C in my own airplane (I am my own sky marshall) and land even with prior notice. I think this needs to be modified to be more reasonable a policy yet maintain security.